Use of force for recovery of loans

371. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a franchise recovery wing of a private bank was responsible for the death of a Government employee in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether any measures are being taken/proposed to be taken to restrain the private banks in adopting coercive measures to recover the outstanding advances from the loanees;

(c) if so, provide the details of the guidelines issued by the RBI for the purpose and the action taken against the delinquent elements of the banks; and

(d) if not, explain the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A borrower of ICICI Bank Ltd. Shri Y. Yadiah, collapsed in the office of a collection agent of the bank, and died. The bank and its agency officials have categorically denied having touched or hurt the borrower in any way. However, the cause of death of Shri Yadiah has not been ascertained so far.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on Fair Practices Code for Lenders on 5th May, 2003 whereby the lenders are prohibited from resorting to means causing undue harassment of the customers for recovery of their dues such as persistently bothering the borrowers at odd hours, use of muscle power for recovery of loans, making threatening calls, etc. Further, Indian Banks' Association has issued a "Model Code for collection of dues and repossession of security" to be followed by its member banks to maintain dignity and respect of the customers in their Debt Collection Policy and not to follow policies that are unduly coercive in collection of their dues. The Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) has been set up to plan, evolve, prepare, develop, promote and publish voluntary comprehensive codes and standards for banks for providing fair treatment to their customers.

Further, RBI has also issued Master Circular on credit card operations of the banks on 02.07.2007 advising banks/NBFCs/their agents not to resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts.

Hawala route for NRI income

372. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has come across any strong indication that a part of the NRI income is taking the hawala route and are entering into the country's burgeoning real estate sector;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been initiated to contain the above development:

c) if so, what has been the outcome of the measures taken-upto discourage the diversion of foreign exchange; and

d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Coal gasification project by BHEL

373. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether BHEL propose to set up 400 MW power plant based on coal gasification;

(b) if so, whether BHEL have requisite experience for building up such a power plant based on Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology;

(c) whether it is a fact that BHEL and NTPC have not been able to solve the differences on technical issues on 125 MW IGCC project; and

(d) by when the 125 MW project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India had set up a National R&D Committee in 2003. As per the advice of the National R&D Committee, BHEL and NTPC have jointly prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR). BHEL Board has agreed with the approach indicated in DPR and has forwarded it to NTPC for necessary action at their end.

Appointment of independent directors in BHEL

374. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn by various trade unions including President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) regarding appointment of independent directors in BHEL;

(b) whether someone from ZARDA (Chewing Tobacco) industry and another having links with a competitor of BHEL are functioning as independent director of BHEL;

(c) if so, the details of the professional backgrounds of independent directors in BHEL board; and